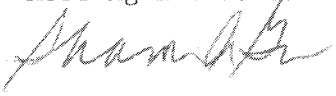


APPROVED: Meeting No. 17-89

ATTEST: 

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 13-89

April 3, 1989

The Mayor and Council convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland Avenue at Vinson, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, April 3, 1989, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Douglas Duncan

Councilmember Stephen Abrams

Councilmember James Coyle

Councilmember Viola Hovsepian

Councilmember David Robbins

(Councilmembers Hovsepian and Robbins arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

The Mayor in the Chair.

Re: Worksession with Board of
Supervisors of Elections

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and City Attorney Paul T. Glasgow.

In attendance from the Board of Supervisors of Elections: Zan Donaldson, Alice Lyon, Paula Porpilia and Raymond Sherbill. Also present was Marie Garber, the city's Elections Consultant.

Paula Porpilia, Vice Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of Elections, stated that as a result of their experience in the last election and comments received from concerned citizens and groups, the Board has prepared proposed changes to Chapter 4, "Elections," "Laws of Rockville."

Specific items of discussion were:

1. Use of the term "political committee" consistently throughout the law and deletion of the term "political organization." Concerns were expressed that civic

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groups who do not view themselves as political committees should not be subject to the reporting law. Rather, members of the organization can form a separate group to pursue political activities.

2. Deletion of definition of "write-in candidate." In response to Mayor Duncan's question as to why this definition was being deleted, Ms. Porpilia explained that only the definition appears in Chapter 4 and the term doesn't appear anywhere else in the ordinance.

3. The Board proposed an appeal process while the polls are open with the Board remaining available during the last hour of each election day for the purpose of hearing such appeals. Marie Garber noted that challenge ballots were not a problem during the 1987 election.

4. With respect to absentee ballots, the Board is recommending that applications for absentee ballots be available up to and including the election day. Mayor Duncan asked if the Board recommended retention of the seven day deadline period for mailing absentee ballots, and Mrs. Garber responded affirmatively.

5. In discussing the inclusion of "curbside voting" for handicapped persons, questions were raised regarding electioneering within the proscribed limits of the curb. Mayor Duncan indicated that the Board could give the election judges authority to tell the electioneers to leave this area.

6. Regarding Section 4-51(a), it was decided that the language should provide that a member of the Board of Supervisors of Elections may be a member of a political committee but should not take an active role in any campaign. The City Attorney was requested to make this change.

7. Several other clarifying changes to the election cycle and reporting schedule were discussed and recommended for introduction as proposed.

8. The Board noted that they were revising the campaign finance reporting forms. Following discussion, it was agreed that the City Attorney would revise the

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law to provide that candidates wishing to use forms other than those prescribed by the Board must receive approval of the Board prior to filing.

9. There was also a discussion regarding the provisions relating to campaign contribution receipts. Mrs. Garber advised the Mayor and Council that the Graphics Division in the City will be producing receipt books for candidates for the November, 1989 election.

The City Attorney was instructed by the Mayor and Council to make revisions to the Election law as recommended by the Board with the Mayor and Council's suggested changes. Introduction of the revised ordinance was tentatively scheduled for the April 24 General Session.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council concerning elections, this worksession was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Re: Worksession - Fire and Rescue
Services

In attendance: City Manager Bruce Romer, City Clerk Sharon Gran and Assistant City Attorney Sondra Block.

Also in attendance was Ramon F. Granados, Director, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services.

Mr. Granados reviewed the changes which have occurred in the past year indicating that services are still being provided in the same excellent fashion.

Specific items of discussion were:

1. Changes in employment status with independent fire corporation employees now being County employees.
2. Staffing of fire stations by career firefighters versus volunteers and the difficulties with retaining volunteers in Montgomery County.
3. Construction of new Rockville Station No. 31.
4. Recommendation of the task force that the County be one consolidated fire tax district. Although no action has been taken on this recommendation, given its

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lower tax rate, there is little likelihood that Rockville would become part of the consolidated fire tax district.

5. Discussion of sprinkler requirements and the ability to selectively dispatch and save money when operating sprinklers are in use.

Sondra Block, Assistant City Attorney, told the Mayor and Council that the current fire code is out-of-date and they have been working with the County to develop a new fire code which would be easily adaptable to municipalities. In response to Mayor Duncan's question, she indicated that the new code should be ready for adoption within a year.

Mr. Granados noted that attempts to secure state enabling legislation which would provide incentives, such as tax rebates, for installation of sprinklers, were unsuccessful.

In response to Councilmember Robbins' question, Mr. Granados indicated that the cost of retrofitting is approximately double that of installation in new buildings.

Mr. Granados noted that the County currently requires all new construction except single-family homes to be built with sprinklers and, within a seven year period, all existing buildings over 75 feet high are to be retrofitted.

The Mayor and Council instructed staff to prepare an amendment to the city law requiring sprinklers in new townhouse and multi-family developments within the city which would mirror the County's law. Additionally, staff was instructed to come back with other recommendations for phasing in changes to the current law.

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in Worksession, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m., to convene in General Session at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 1989, or at the call of the Mayor.